

Women for Peace in Battle at White House

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By Jack White
Washington Post Staff Writer

Four persons were arrested as an anti-draft demonstration led by Women Strike for Peace erupted into a wild melee in front of the White House yesterday.

The outbreak occurred when some of the protesters — mostly middle-aged women — attempted to join 100 fellow pickets already in front of the White House. Park Police regulations prohibit demonstration by more than 100 there.

As about 80 of the women surged out of Lafayette Park headed toward the East Gate of the White House, they were met by a wall of Park Police. In the ruckus, several women were knocked to the ground, struck by swinging police billy sticks and tackled after breaking through the line.

After trying unsuccessfully to pass the police lines, the women staged a noisy 25-minute sit-in in the street, right in the middle of the Pennsylvania Avenue-Madison Place intersection. They

shouted "Hell, no! We won't go" and "We shall not be moved" into the faces of the policemen who crowded around them.

Park Police, who have charge of both Lafayette Park and the sidewalk in front of the White House, gave the women "two minutes to move or you will be charged with unlawful assembly."

A compromise was worked out, however, allowing the women to return to the Park.

Two men and two women were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

THE MELEE followed a rally at the Ellipse during which Women Strike for Peace pledged itself to resist the draft and called upon young men to refuse to serve in Vietnam.

Dagmar Wilson, founder of the women's strike, who returned from two weeks in Hanoi on Tuesday, told about 500 at the rally "the morale of the North Vietnamese is absolutely superb and I can understand why. You sit at a table in a dug-

out and hear those American planes and you want to get up and shoot them down yourself."

She also quoted a captured American pilot as saying "Go home and tell the American people the truth. Print the Geneva Accords in every newspaper so that the American people will know we have no business being in Vietnam."

Gary Racer, who said he was a former Green Beret, told the rally that "hundreds of draft resisters" will return their draft cards to authorities on Oct. 16.

FROM THE ELLIPSE, the protesters marched two-by-two to Selective Service Headquarters, 17th and F sts., n.w.

Chanting "We'll back the boys who will not go," they carried to the door of the building a black "coffin" marked "Not my sons—not your sons—not their sons—support those who say no."

It was after the group had marched to Lafayette Park that the violence began. One hundred of the women were

allowed to carry their picket signs across the street to the White House where they marched in a tight circle.

The 400 or so left in the Park began to mill around between green picket barriers which one dubbed "Johnson's Wall." Several persons attempted to cross the street.

All four arrests were made as the group attempted to cross Pennsylvania Avenue. Rader, 23, was arrested when he lay down in front of a paddy wagon. As he was wrestled away by police, Francis R. Rocks, 23, and several women came to his aid. Police grabbed Rocks and both he and Rader were taken to the Third Precinct.

The two women who were arrested were Evelyn Aloy, 50, of Philadelphia, and Joyce D. Williamson, 21, of 3416 17th st. n.w. Miss Williamson was charged with failure to move on.

All four were later released on \$10 collateral on disorderly conduct charges.

After the protesters had returned to Lafayette Park

Park Police made an offer to allow all 500 women to picket the White House in shifts of 100. Previously, the picketing was restricted to the first 100 women who crossed the street.

Mrs. Wilson rejected the offer saying "If we cross 100 at a time, we're accepting the edict we reject."

SOL ROSEN, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, told newsmen that he would bring criminal charges against "every policeman involved." He said the regulation limiting demonstrations to 100 was "flagrantly unconstitutional" and that he would challenge it in the courts.

At the same time, a line of police officers met at the door to the White House. When they were told that all four protesters would be released, the protesters' picket lines moved three buses and reached the Ellipse.

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Park Police bar a member of Women Strike for Peace from joining her fellow pickets in front of the White House yesterday. Women's letter, the women staged a noisy sit-in, in the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Madison Place.

By Stephen Northrup—The Washington Post



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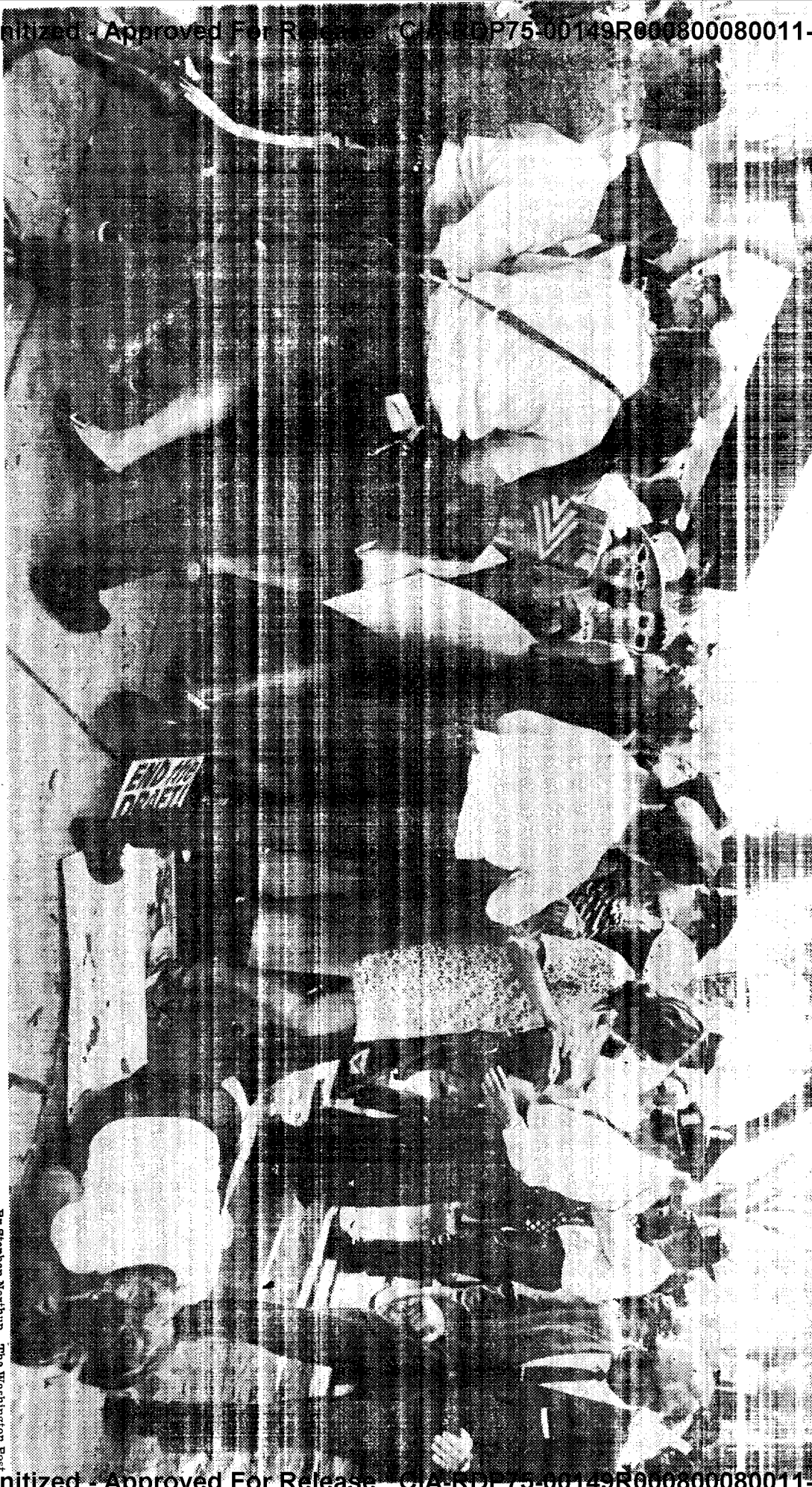
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Fracas at White House

A coffin rocks above the melee, left, and a woman is felled on the sidewalk as 80 Women Strike for Peace demonstrators try to join 100 demonstrators already picketing in

front of the White House. Police blocked them yesterday to enforce regulation prohibiting demonstrations of more than 100. Four persons were arrested. Story, photos, E1.

By Stephen Northup—The Washington Post



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